

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 24, 2004

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on May 24, 2004 in Room 830, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

President Jernigan called a meeting of a Committee of the Whole to order at 10:08 a.m., followed by introductions. The following Commissioners were present for roll call:

President Jernigan
Treasurer Lesser
Commissioner Gravely
Commissioner Lewis
Commissioner Morgan
Commissioner Rodriguez

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Commissioner Creary joined the meeting during the President's Report.)

President Jernigan's report is summarized as follows:

- On May 15, 2004 she spoke at The New Leaders (TNL) General Meeting and was commended for offering "engaging and informative remarks" on developing community leadership.
- She noted the high number of women graduating with science and engineering degrees at her granddaughter's recent graduation from Cal State Sacramento on May 21, 2004.
- She read a letter from Vice President Mariajimenez, who indicated that that because of increased work responsibilities she would not seek reappointment to the Commission, and offered best wishes to her fellow Commissioners. President Jernigan noted that she would be truly missed and that she brought a new energy and perspective to the Commission. Other Commissioners also commended Vice President Mariajimenez for her contributions to the Commission.

Following a brief discussion of Commission appointments, Commissioner Rodriguez suggested contacting the Los Angeles Women's Appointment Collaboration to obtain a list of potential candidates for appointment.

STAFF REPORT

Staff reported the following:

- Supervisor Antonovich is holding the 7th Annual "Remembering Our Veterans and Their Families" celebration on Saturday, May 29, 2004 at Arcadia County Park from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- Assembly Concurrent Resolution 139, which concerns the King/Drew Medical Center and UCLA developing a joint advisory team to develop recommendations on developing training programs at the Medical Center, was chaptered into law on May 3, 2004.
- The Los Angeles Women's Appointment Collaboration "Get Appointed Workshop" is scheduled for Saturday, June 12, 2004.
- Casa De Rosas, Inc. will host their Seventh Annual Brunch on Saturday, June 19, 2004 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Los Angeles. This year board member Jean Frost will be honored with the First Annual June Dunbar Award for excellence in community service. The Commission agreed to agendize purchasing tickets to the event.

Commissioner Rodriguez announced the 2004 Commissioners' Leadership Conference: "Empowering County Commissioners: Communicate, Educate and Advocate" on Wednesday, May 26, 2004 at the Music Center.

PRESENTATION ON THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT EARLY INMATE RELEASE PROGRAM

(Commissioners Perkins and Davalos joined the meeting during the presentation, constituting a quorum).

Chief Charles Jackson, LASD Correctional Services Division, provided an overview of the department's early inmate release program. He explained that severe budget cuts and increased recent LAPD and LASD arrests of violent criminals have forced the department to release inmates prior to completing their jail sentences. In April 2003, the custody budget was reduced by \$17 million, requiring the division to reduce the number of daily inmates from 22,000 to 17,500. As a result, buildings and sections of inmate facilities have been closed.

The plan of the early release program is to hold the most violent and high-risk offenders for 100% of their sentence but release other offenders earlier, including domestic violence offenders. Currently domestic violent offenders are serving 25-50% of their sentences. To assist victims of spousal abuse, the VINE program notifies enrollees in the program about the release of their batterers from jail.

He went on to describe increased homicides in county jails, the need for increased jail personnel and the practice of judges delaying sentencing of convicted criminals. To address the budget challenges, the department is considering various programs to generate much-needed revenue, such as increasing rates for Sheriff's services for contracting cities, charging Sheriff's booking fees for non-contracting cities and developing a jail enterprises program. Raising taxes for law enforcement is also an option.

Commissioners then expressed concern that releasing inmates early would jeopardize public safety and increase crime. They also discussed the issue of judges delaying

sentencing of criminals in order to keep inmates in jail. Commissioners suggested the department seek corporate donations and volunteers and notify community-based organizations about the early release of inmates.

President Jernigan thanked Chief Jackson for his informative presentation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Treasurer Lesser, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, and duly carried, with Commissioner Gravely abstaining, the minutes of May 10, 2004 were approved.

DESIGNATE TREASURER LESSER AS COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE ON AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION BOARD

On motion of Commissioner Perkins, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, and unanimously carried, the Commission designated Treasurer Lesser as the Commission representative on the Western States Affiliate, Los Angeles County Division of the American Heart Association.

STATUS REPORT ON THE NACW CONVENTION

Staff reported that the Pasadena Commission on the Status of Women voted unanimously to stop work on the NACW Convention because of contract problems with the NACW. Staff will keep Commissioners apprised of this situation.

CONSIDER APPROVING PRINTING COST FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SCREENING CARDS

Commissioner Rodriguez indicated that the Commission's financial contribution will be acknowledged and that the Violence Intervention Program would print the name and logo of the Commission and the Domestic Violence Council on the screening cards if space permits.

On motion of Commissioner Perkins, seconded by Treasurer Lesser, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the cost of \$751 and the use of the Commission's name and logo on the domestic violence screening cards.

CONSIDER APPROVING UP TO \$100 FOR FLOWERS FOR IDA B. KINNEY CELEBRATION

On motion of Commissioner Perkins, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved up to a \$100 donation for flowers for Ida B. Kinney's 100th birthday celebration on May 25, 2004. Commissioner Perkins announced she would be the Mistress of Ceremonies at the event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Health Committee

On behalf of Commissioner Creary, staff announced that the Health Committee would meet with the Board Health Deputies in June.

Domestic Violence Subcommittee:

Commissioner Rodriguez reported that the Subcommittee met this morning and would be contacting various county departments to follow up on recommendations from the report "War on the Homefront." She indicated the Subcommittee would present the process to the Commission for review and adoption. She also announced the next Domestic Violence Subcommittee meeting on Monday, July 12, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

Legislative Committee: There was no report.

Media/Public Relations Committee: Commissioner Morgan reported on a newspaper article on a soldier who had attended the Le Roy Haynes Center as a child.

Older Women's Issues Committee: There was no report.

5K Run/Walk Subcommittee: The Committee would meet Wednesday, May 26, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 374-L.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Genevieve Clavreul spoke on an article she wrote on nursing and on other nursing issues.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Jernigan invited Commissioners to attend the Finance Committee meeting discussion on the Commission Trust Fund on June 14, 2004 at 12:30 p.m.

Commissioner Rodriguez attended the following:

- The National Council of Jewish Women Los Angeles health briefing, "The Matter of Health" on May 11, 2004 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- The Latino Health Care Professionals Project on May 21, 2004, 6:00 p.m. at the Grand Long Beach Event Center in Long Beach.

Staff reported on Commissioner Creary's participation in the following events:

- The Quinceañera Celebration presented by Supervisor Burke and the Latino Business Advisory at Nat's Airport Restaurant in Hawthorne on May 16, 2004 at 3:30 p.m.
- The Auxiliary to the Charles Drew Medical Society's Annual Scholarship Fundraiser on Sunday, May 23, 2004 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the LAX Airport Marriott Hotel.
- The 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Links, Inc., Inglewood Pacific Chapter at the Marina Bay Marriott in Marina Del Rey on May 23, 2004 at 11:30 a.m.

On behalf of Commissioner Creary, staff also announced that a senior health fair sponsored by the City of Los Angeles would be held on June 12, 2004 at Exposition Park. There will be free health screenings, lunch, resources and entertainment. Last year's fair featured actress/singer Della Reese at Balboa Park in Encino.

Commissioner Perkins reported that she attended Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher's company retreat in Palm Springs. The event honored artist and educator Synthia St. James and featured Dr. Maya Angelou as a keynote speaker.

Treasurer Lesser attended the Manhattan Beach Senior Health Fair on Friday, May 21, 2004. On May 22, 2004 she attended the South Bay Youth Project and the Grunion Run at the Cabrillo Beach Marine Museum.

President Jernigan announced an event honoring John Kerry on Monday, June 7, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA: There were none.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS

Ruth Jernigan, President
Charlotte Lesser, Treasurer
Ruth Creary, Ph.D
Karin Davalos
Wadie Gravely
Bonnie J. Lewis
Lila Morgan
Barbara Perkins
Olivia Rodriguez

EXCUSED

Yvonne Mariajimenez, Esq., Vice President
Yolanda Becerra-Jones
Roslyn Cooperman
Reiko Duba
Janet E. Mummey, Esq.

UNEXCUSED

Sophia Esparza

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Khanh Nguyen, Executive Office
B. Eugene Romig, Executive Office
Twila P. Kerr, Executive Office
Steve Erickson, Executive Office
Audra Galang, Executive Office
Chief Charles Jackson, Sheriff's Department

GUESTS

Genevieve Clavreul
Yvonne La Rose